

Mary Dyas - Request for Agency Participation in the Review of the Carrizo Energy Solar Farm Project

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Date: 11/27/2007 3:19 PM
Subject: Request for Agency Participation in the Review of the Carrizo Energy Solar Farm Project

TO: Mary Dyas, Energy Commission Project Manager
FROM: Sylas Cranor, Water Resources Engineer
DATE: November 27, 2007
SUBJECT: Request for Agency Participation in the Review of the Carrizo Energy Solar Farm Project

I represent the Water Resources Unit, a subset of the Utilities division, which falls under the auspices of the San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department. The Water Resources Unit manages surface and ground water data to promote the most beneficial use of water resources within the County. We are not familiar with the Commissions' data adequacy regulations and are unable to determine if the Carrizo Energy Solar Farm Project (Project) is "data adequate." Having said this, we do have comments on the proposed Project and have outlined our main concerns in the following paragraphs.

As our Unit name suggests, our concerns for the proposed Project are centered on water. After a review of the project application, the Water Resources Unit has identified two areas of concern: water use and water disposal. Water use (and therefore availability) is consistently a significant area of concern for water providers and water users. Water use is of particular interest in the Project area because every water user in the area relies solely on groundwater to meet their needs and they do not have an alternative (affordable) source of water should the supply in the basin decline. As stated above, water disposal is also of concern to us. The groundwater basin directly below the Project site is currently impacted and of poor quality. We are concerned about possible contaminants in the treated wastewater effluent, and the concentrate disposal method, both of which have an impact on groundwater quality. An ideal project would be one that has no negative impact on the quality and quantity of the water in the basin.

Thank you for giving the San Luis Obispo County Public Works Utilities Division an opportunity to comment on the proposed Project and we may offer more input in the future during the public review process.

Sylas

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